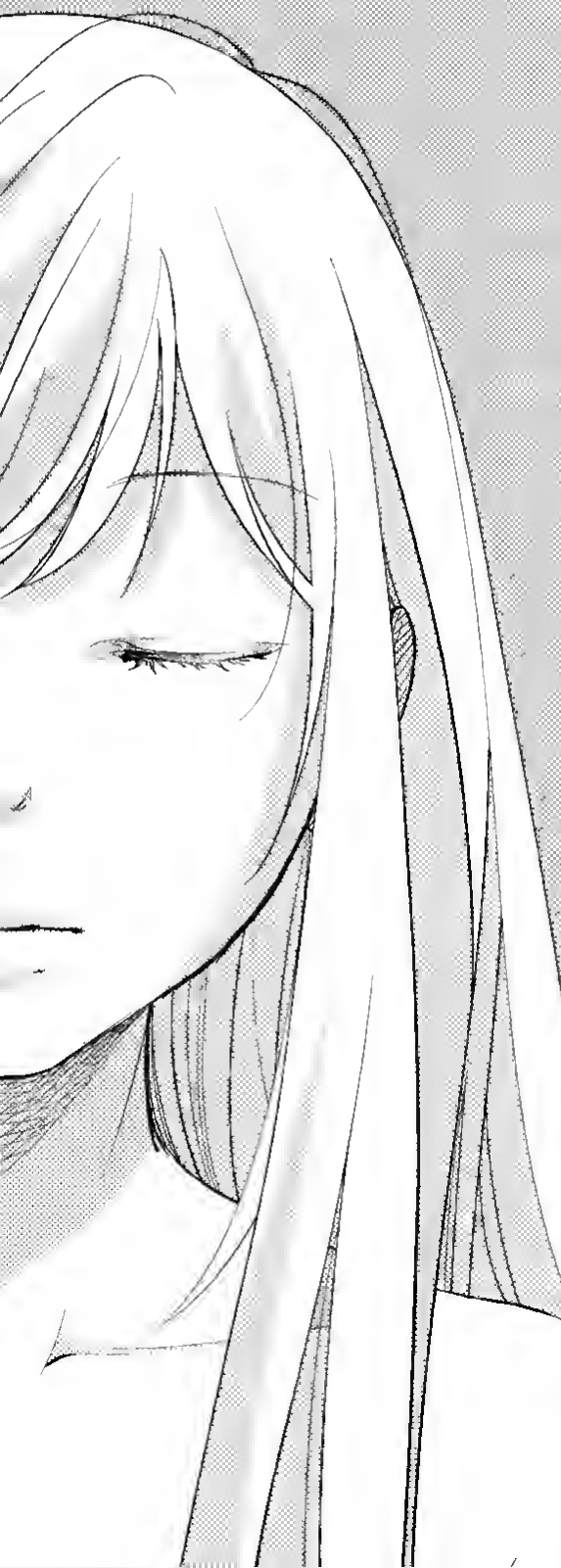
わたしの好きなあの子のこと

Fumie Akuta
presents
watashino sukina
anokonokoto

02

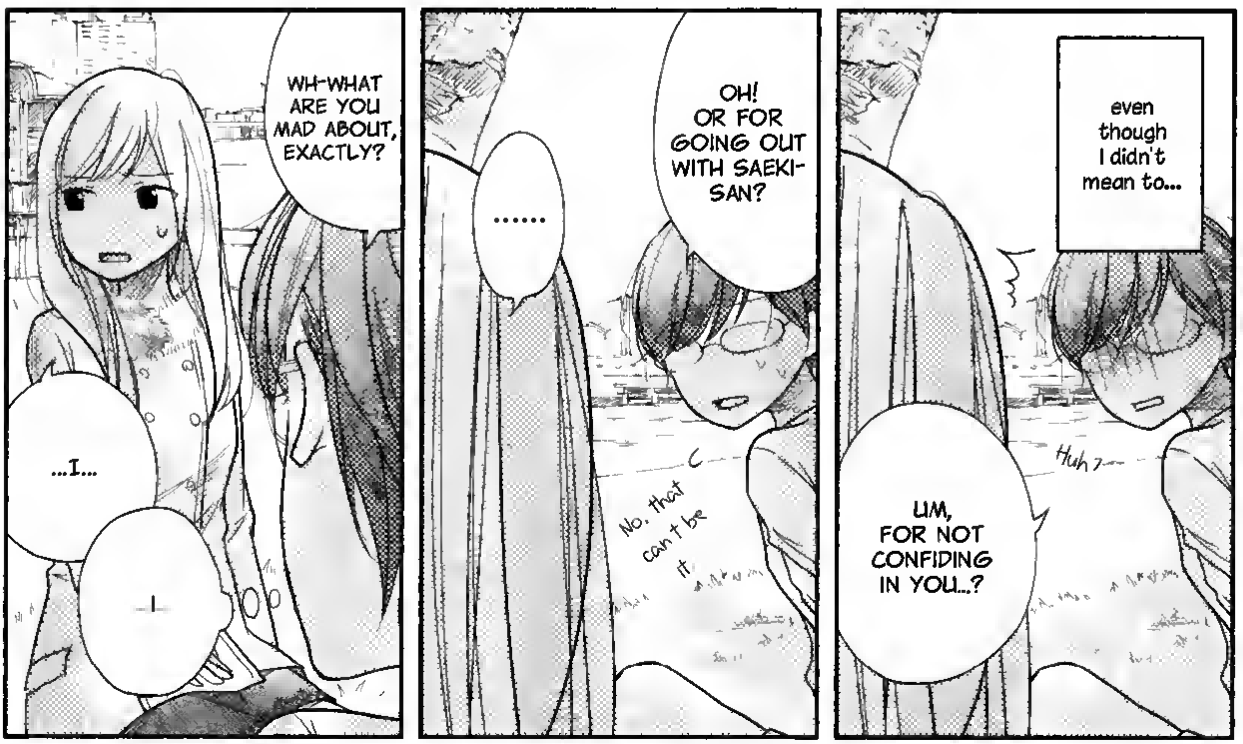
芥文絵

The One I Love

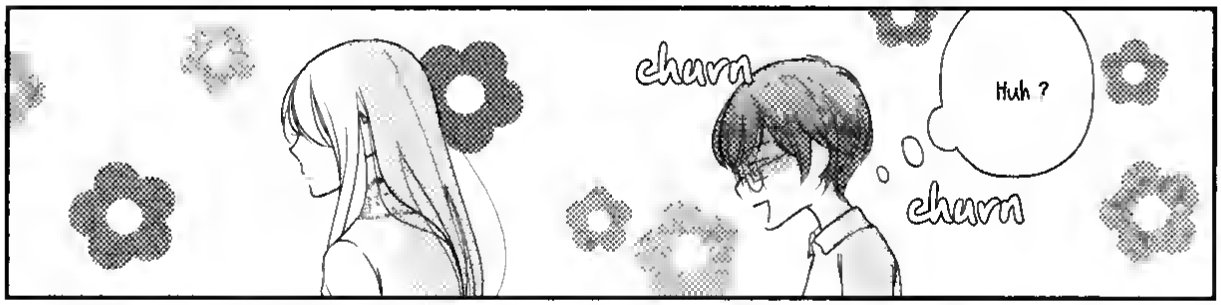


Tsubaki got really mad when we started talking about Saeki-san,
I-I'M SORRY.
YOU WERE FINE WITH OUR RELATIONSHIP NEVER BEING THE SAME AGAIN!

so I instinctively apologized,
WHAT ARE YOU SORRY FOR?


even though I didn't mean to...
UM, FOR NOT CONFIDING IN YOU...?
Huh?
OH! OR FOR GOING OUT WITH SAEKI-SAN?
.....
No, that can't be it
WH-WHAT ARE YOU MAD ABOUT, EXACTLY?
...I...

HUH?
You don't?
I DON'T KNOW EITHER!
...JUST FORGET IT! LET'S GO HOME!
Wait


churn
Huh ?
churn

WHY ARE YOU WALKING BEHIND ME!?

HEY!
Yes?

At times like this,
tmp
I know just what she wants.
So why...
tug
...I'M SORRY.
Whoa!

Just act normal... Just act normal...
I'M SORRY.
...Oh, I should say something...
IT'S OKAY. I SHOULD HAVE CHOSEN MY WORDS BETTER, TOO.
...I've already decided not to tell her how I feel about her.
YOU'RE GONNA TELL HER!?

Oh, is that all? Boooring!
JUST THAT I LIKE GIRLS.
I DON'T WANT TO BURDEN HER WITH MY FEELINGS.
BEING HER FRIEND IS ENOUGH FOR ME. I WANT TO KEEP HER IN MY LIFE.
NOT THAT I LIKE HER.
I NEED TO GET OVER HER. I KNOW THERE'S NO HOPE.
GO for it!
YOU SHOULD TELL HER! DON'T JUST GIVE UP.
AND YOU KNOW...
A LOT OF PEOPLE DO LOSE THEIR FRIENDSHIPS AFTER TELLING A GIRL HOW THEY FEEL.
SO KEEPING IT TO HERSELF IS A VALID CHOICE
SHE NEEDS OUR SUPPORT.
BUT...
Let her be
I'M SURE NAO HAS THOUGHT THIS THROUGH

AND TELLING HER THIS
WILL HELP ME PUT MY FEELINGS FOR HER BEHIND ME.

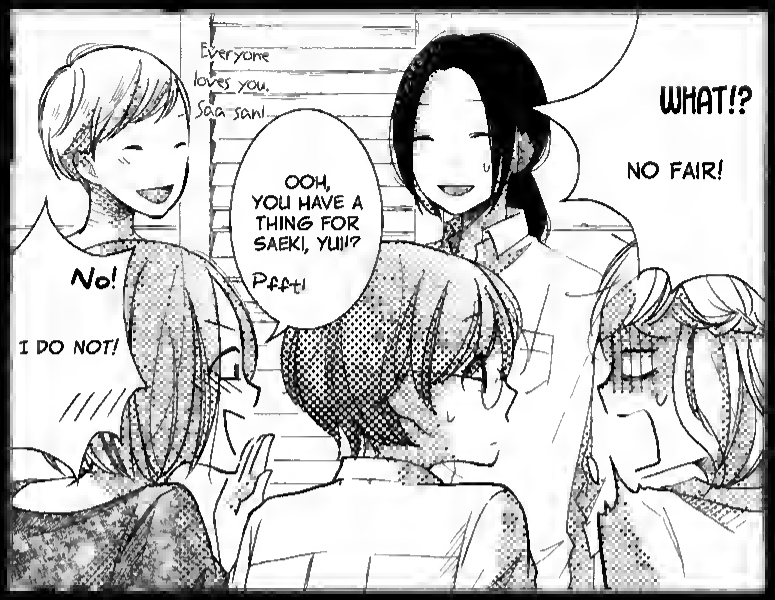
YOU'RE COMING OUT TO HER, THOUGH, RIGHT?
IT'S TOO HARD TO KEEP THIS FROM HER ANYMORE.
IT FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN LYING TO HER.

OH, I KNOW!
TELL HER YOU ALREADY HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND!!
YOU THINK SO...?

SHE'S YOUR BEST FRIEND, ISN'T SHE?
IT MIGHT MAKE HER UNCOM-FORTABLE TO KNOW YOU COULD SEE HER IN A ROMANTIC LIGHT.

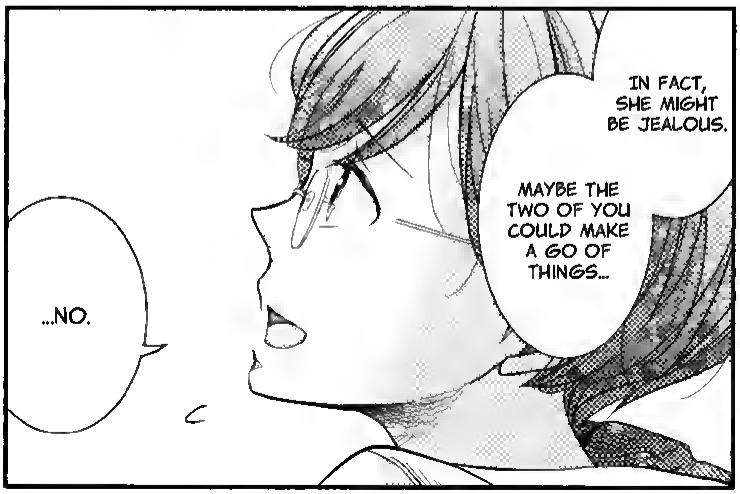
THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA. IF YOU DO THAT,
MAYBE SHE WON'T TREAT YOU ANY DIFFER-ENTLY, AND YOU CAN STILL BE FRIENDS.

Like how girls trust guys with girlfriends!!
THAT WAY, SHE'LL KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO DATE HER,
SO IT WON'T BE AWKWARD!
WHAT...?
Is that really a thing?


Everyone loves you, Saa-san!
OOH, YOU HAVE A THING FOR SAEKI, YUI!?
Pfft!
No!
I DO NOT!
WHAT!?
NO FAIR!

I'LL PLAY AS YOUR GIRLFRIEND, THEN.

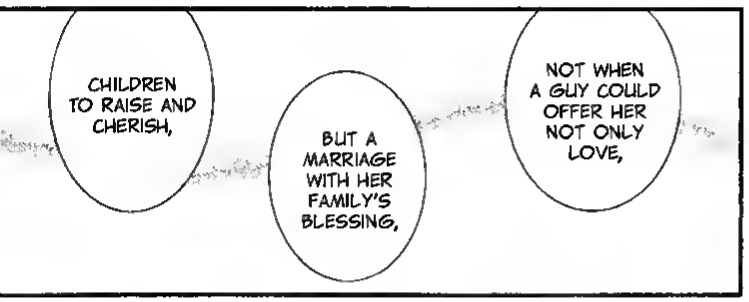
sigh...
I still don't know why Tsubaki got mad
...I DIDN'T KNOW
IT WOULD LEAD TO THIS MESS.


...NO.
MAYBE THE TWO OF YOU COULD MAKE A GO OF THINGS...
IN FACT, SHE MIGHT BE JEALOUS.

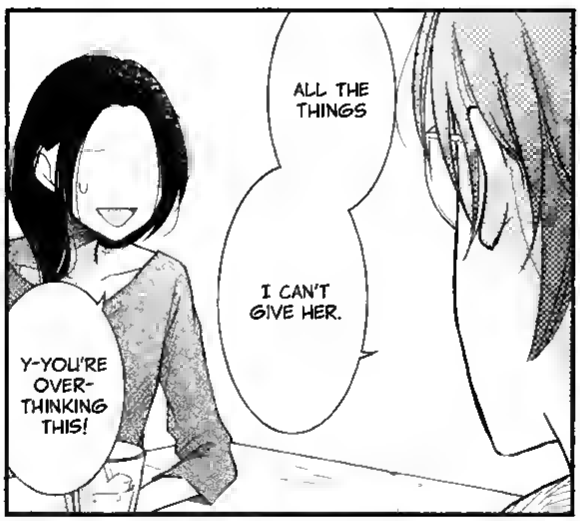
IT'S JUST A SIGN OF HOW MUCH TSUBAKI-CHAN CARES ABOUT YOU.

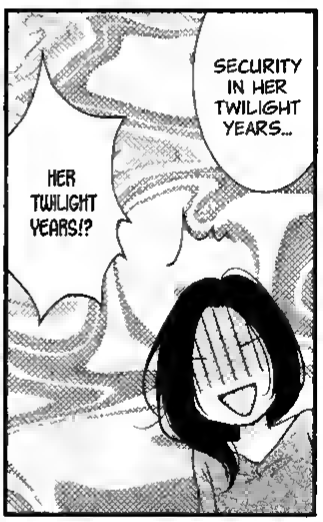
I DON'T WANT TO PUT HER THROUGH ALL THAT.
IT WOULD BE TOO HARD.
EVEN IF SHE REALLY WOULD GO OUT WITH ME,

SHE'S JUST JEALOUS BECAUSE SHE THINKS YOU STOLE HER FRIEND AWAY.
AND EVEN IF...


CHILDREN TO RAISE AND CHERISH,
BUT A MARRIAGE WITH HER FAMILY'S BLESSING,
NOT WHEN A GUY COULD OFFER HER NOT ONLY LOVE,

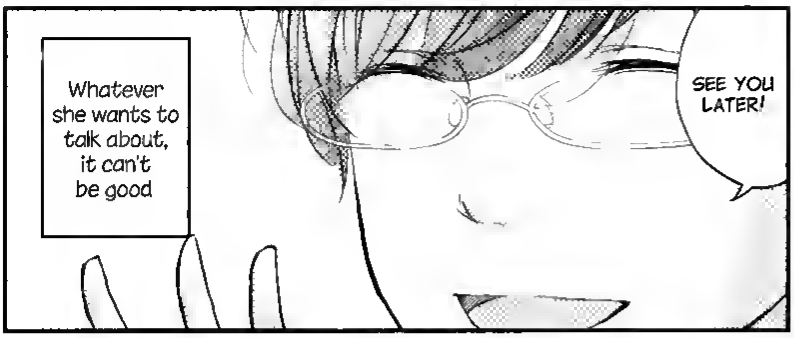
I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THOSE THINGS.


Y-YOU'RE OVER-THINKING THIS!
I CAN'T GIVE HER.
ALL THE THINGS

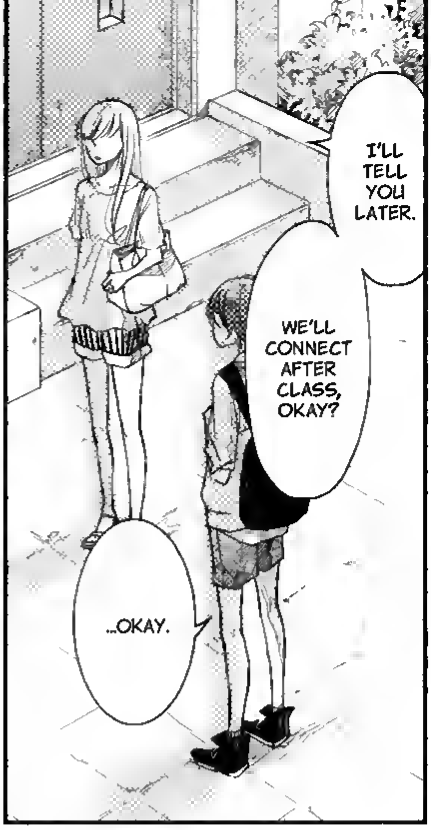

HER TWILIGHT YEARS!?
SECURITY IN HER TWILIGHT YEARS...

AND I WANT HER TO BE HAPPY.
I CARE ABOUT TSUBAKI,

THAT'S WHY I'M NOT TELLING HER HOW I FEEL ABOUT HER.
MORNING, TSUBAKI!
OH! M-MORNING...
?
YOU'RE EARLY TODAY.
YOU USUALLY CUT IT CLOSE!
YEAH... UM, CAN WE TALK?
AT LUNCH, MAYBE?
...Why are things so awkward between us now?
After that fight, I thought things would go back to normal.
OF COURSE! YOU NEVER ASK LIKE THAT, IS SOMETHING WRONG?


Whatever she wants to talk about, it can't be good
SEE YOU LATER!

I don't want to find out...


I'LL TELL YOU LATER.
WE'LL CONNECT AFTER CLASS, OKAY?
...OKAY.

OH!!
MORNING!
HI, NAO!
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN!
You're awfully chipper this morning.

MORNING!

HI!
WHAT!? ARE YOU SERIOUS!?
No way!

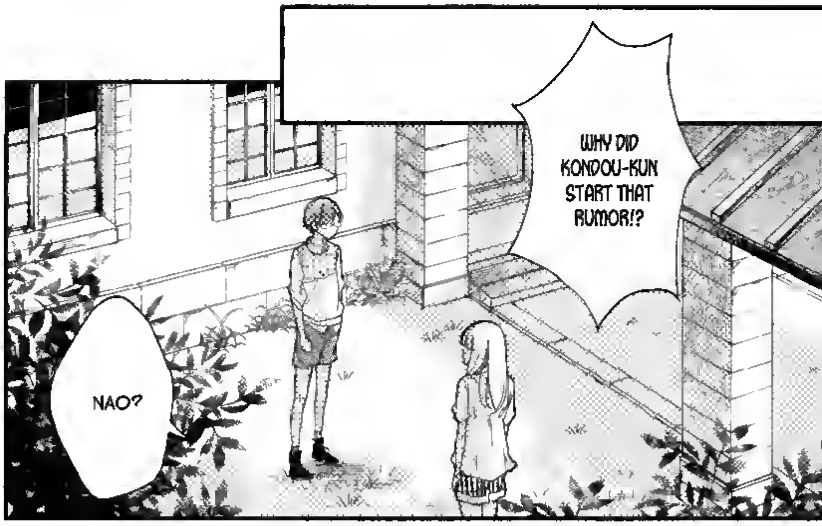
YOU ASK HER!
UH... HEY, NAO...
Huh!? Me!?
WHAT?

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU AND TSUBAKI
ARE GOING OUT?
...HUH?
NO, UM, NOT GOING OUT EXACTLY...
WE HEARD TSUBAKI HAS A CRUSH ON YOU OR SOMETHING.
WHAT THE HECK?
I HEARD KONDOU ASKED HER OUT,
IT'S JUST A RUMOR, I'M SURE!
AND SHE TOLD HIM SHE COULDN'T GO OUT WITH HIM BECAUSE SHE WAS INTO YOU!
YEAH, AND SHE'S DIFFERENT WITH YOU, Y'KNOW?
So we wondered.
A rumor...
HAHAHA!
OF ALL THE RIDICULOUS THINGS TO SAY...!
OH, SO IT'S NOT TRUE?
knew it!

HEY, I BET KONDOU IS JUST SPREADING THAT AROUND
TO GET REVENGE ON HER FOR TURNING HIM DOWN.
WAIT, DID YOU SAY KONDOU-KUN ASKED HER OUT?
Stay calm
SHE'S BEEN DOING THAT SINCE JUNIOR HIGH.
I'M USED TO IT,
Hehe
SO IT DOESN'T FAZE ME ANYMORE.
...I DO WONDER ABOUT TSUBAKI, THOUGH.
YOU DO?
YOU'D THINK HE'D BE TOO EMBARRASSED TO TELL ANYONE.
That's so funny
YUP, BUT SHE SAID NO!
WAIT, LIKE IF SHE'S A DYKE?
Ahaha!
YOU MUST BE KIDDING!

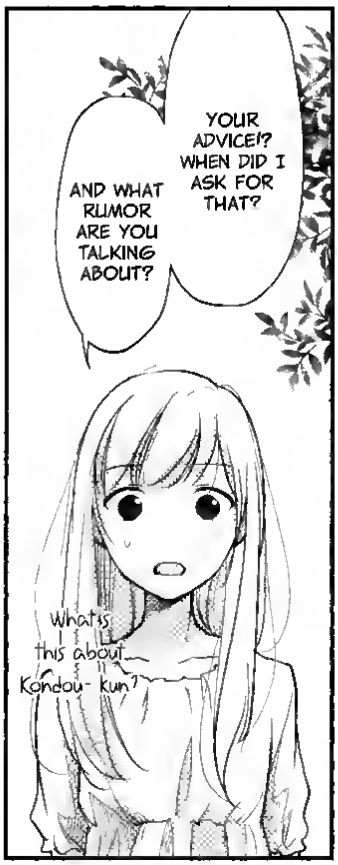
Laugh with them.
Aha ha!
TSUBAKI AND ME, GOING OUT? CAN YOU EVEN IMAGINE!?
Give me a break!
They don't mean anything by it.
You'd make a cute couple, though!!
Wow, thanks!
They're just joking around.
Good morning, class.
Please pass your sheets back!
Oh, the professor's here.
like on a TV gossip show. That's all.
Don't let it get to you.
Is this why she was acting weird this morning?

YOU SHOULD GO TELL HIM RIGHT NOW!
I'LL GO WITH YOU!
Huh..?
WHAT RUMOR?


WHY DID KONDOU-KUN START THAT RUMOR!?
NAO?

BECAUSE YOU TURNED HIM DOWN?
HE HAS NO RIGHT! YOU DON'T DESERVE THIS!

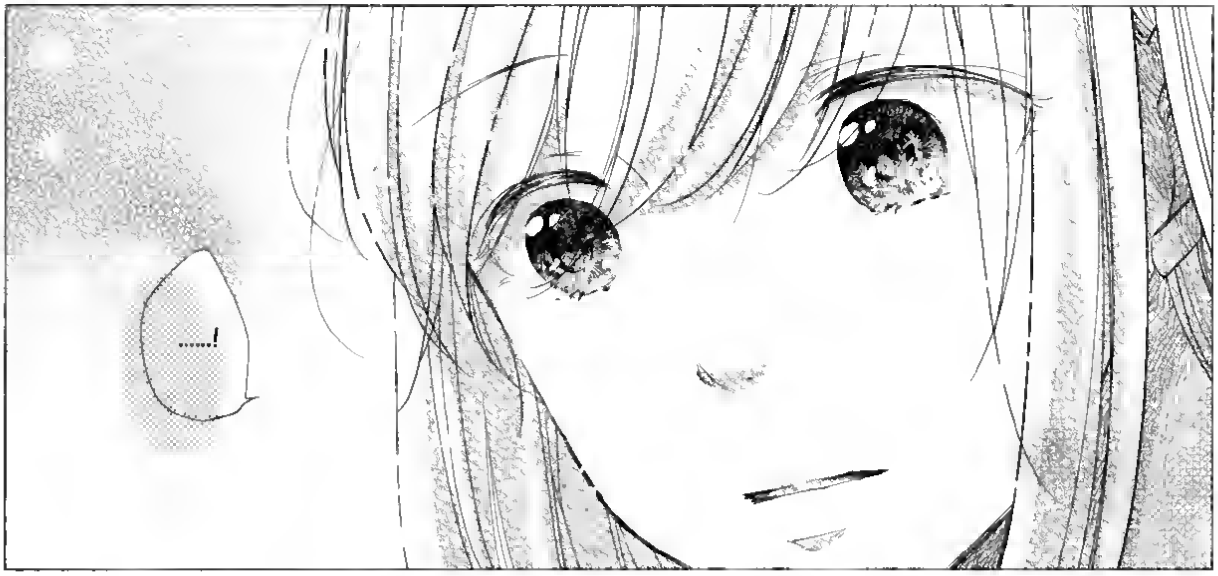
THE ONE HE STARTED TO GET BACK AT YOU...
YOU KNOW... UM...
THAT YOU... THAT YOU LIKE ME...

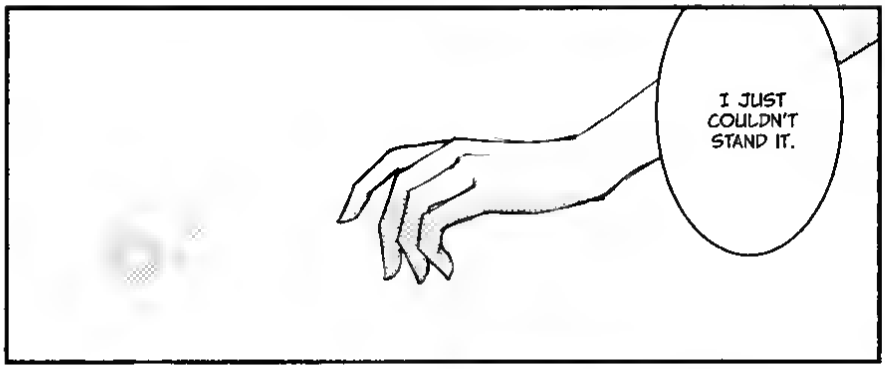

YOUR ADVICE!? WHEN DID I ASK FOR THAT?
AND WHAT RUMOR ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
What is this about Kondou-kun?

HUH?
ISN'T THAT WHY YOU WANTED MY ADVICE?

WHAT!!!?
BLUUUSH...
HUH?
WAIT, NO!!
I MEAN, IT IS, BUT—
I-I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU BETTER!
IT IS TRUE!!
I KNOW IT'S NOT TRUE, S—
bluuush
Now she's blushing too

WHEN KONDOU-KUN ASKED ME OUT YESTERDAY...
I'm sorry I can't
IS THERE SOMEONE ELSE?


.....!


I JUST COULDN'T STAND IT.

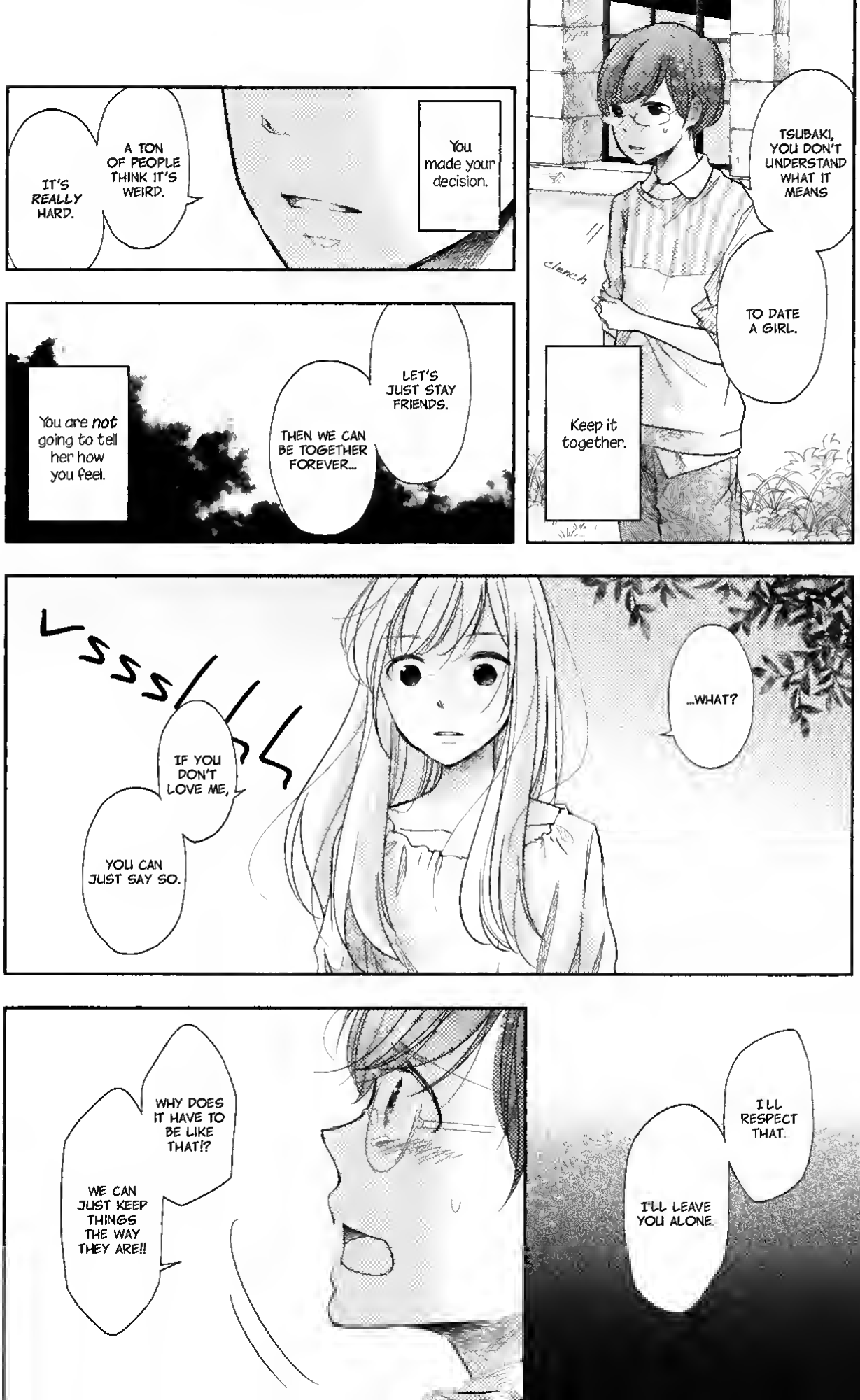
BEFORE THAT,
I THOUGHT I WAS JUST UPSET THAT SAEKI-SAN STOLE MY FRIEND AWAY.
BUT WHEN I SAW HER TOUCH YOU,
AND I REALIZED THAT I WANTED TO TOUCH YOU.

WHAT... ARE YOU SAYING?
tmp

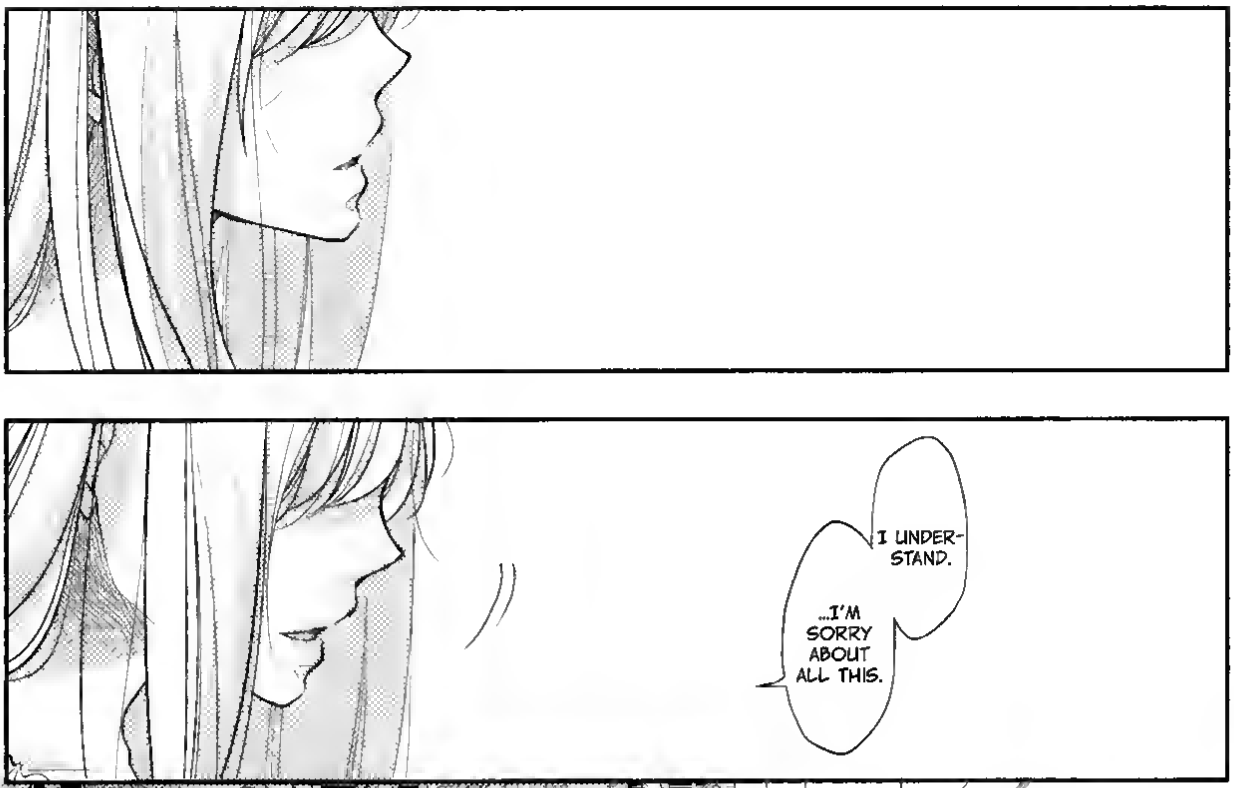
I WANT TO BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND. NOT JUST YOUR FRIEND.
TUG

I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU, NAO.

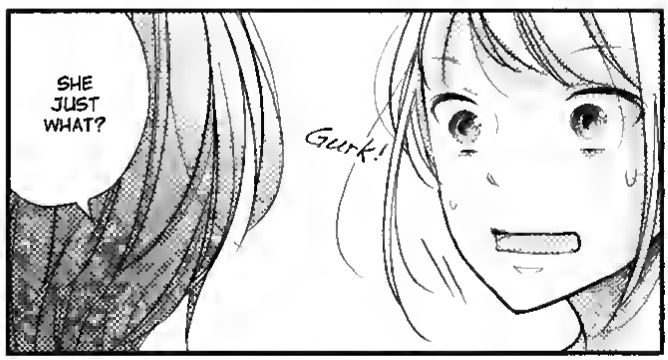
WILL YOU GO OUT WITH ME...?
What.. did she just say?
I can't believe it...
WAIT, LIKE IF SHE'S A DYKE?
smcker smcker
SHOVE
stagger
OH...


TSUBAKI, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS
clench
TO DATE A GIRL.
Keep it together.
You made your decision.
A TON OF PEOPLE THINK IT'S WEIRD.
IT'S REALLY HARD.
LET'S JUST STAY FRIENDS.
THEN WE CAN BE TOGETHER FOREVER...
You are not going to tell her how you feel.
...WHAT?
IF YOU DON'T LOVE ME,
YOU CAN JUST SAY SO.
I'LL RESPECT THAT.
I'LL LEAVE YOU ALONE.
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE LIKE THAT!?
WE CAN JUST KEEP THINGS THE WAY THEY ARE!!

WHAT'S THE POINT IN BEING TOGETHER IF YOU'RE NOT MY GIRLFRIEND!?
AND I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO SEE SOMEONE ELSE'S HANDS ALL OVER YOU!!
NO, WE CAN'T!!
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD JUST STAND BY
AND PRETEND TO ONLY SEE YOU AS A FRIEND!!
I...
I CAN'T GO OUT WITH YOU.
I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND.

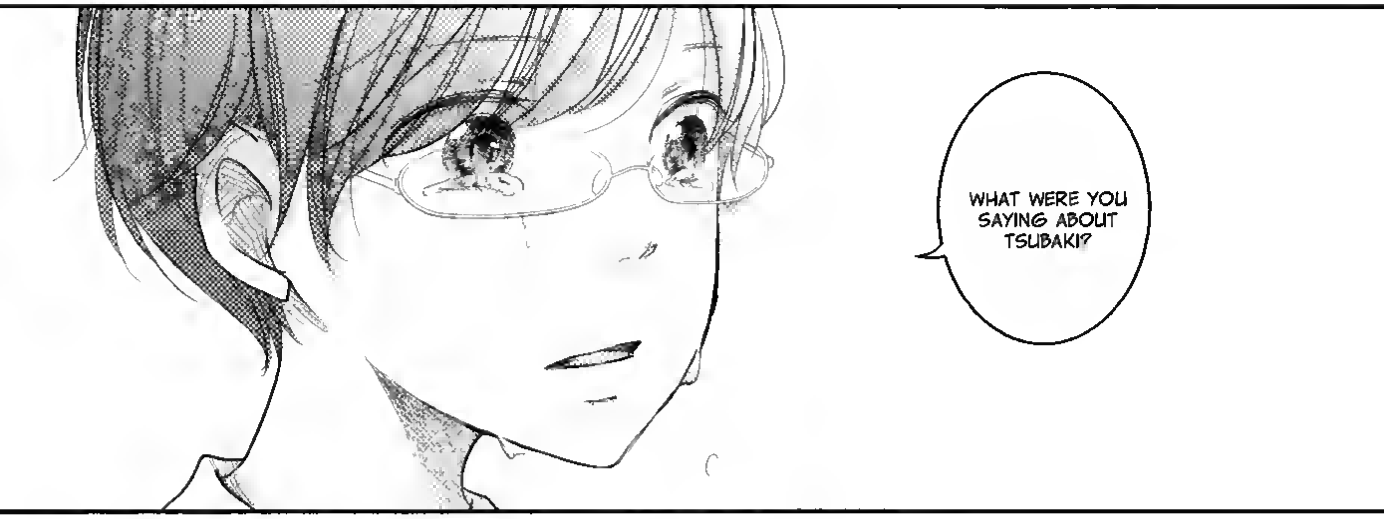

I UNDER-
STAND.
...I'M
SORRY
ABOUT
ALL THIS.

It's okay I did the right thing
sksh
But does this mean I can't be around her anymore?
That's not what I wanted at all...


SHE JUST WHAT?
Gurk!

A-ARE YOU OKAY?

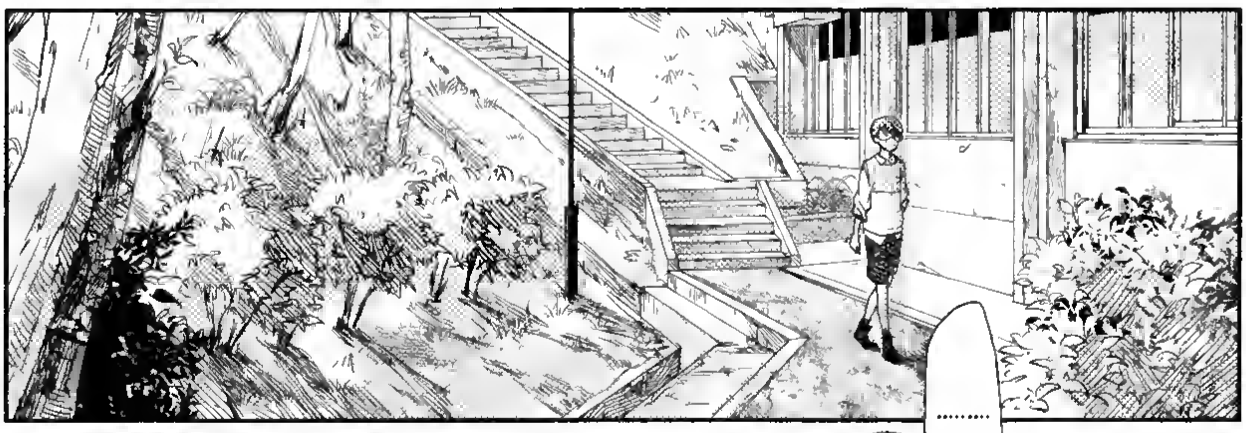
Oh!
THERE YOU ARE, NAO!
TSUBAKI JUST...



After that rumor and everything

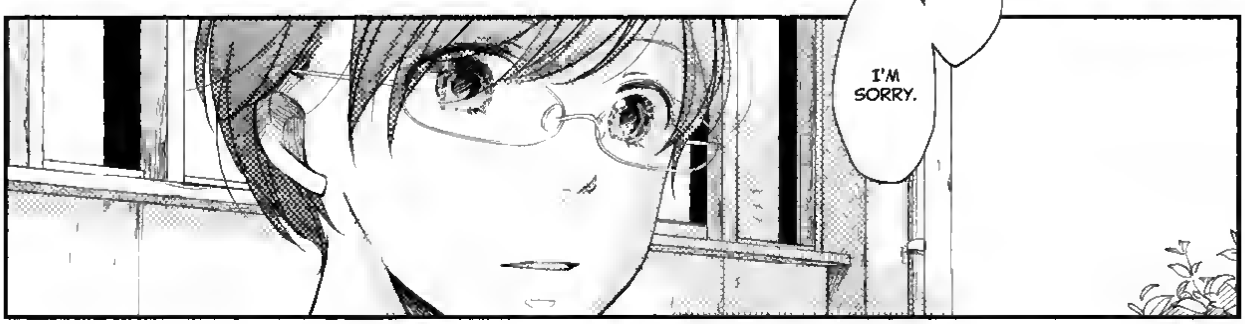
OH, UM... SHE JUST WENT TO THE REC BUILDING WITH KONDOU-KUN,

SO I'M A LITTLE WORRIED...

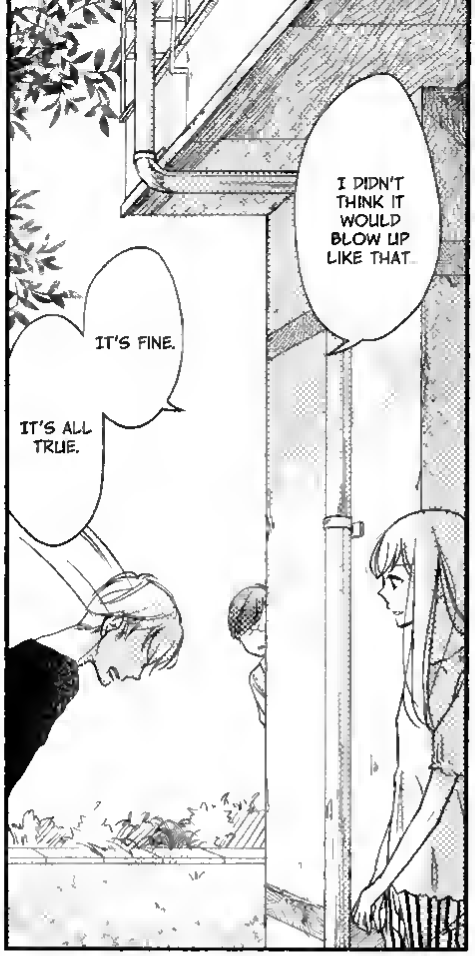


.....

I'M SORRY.

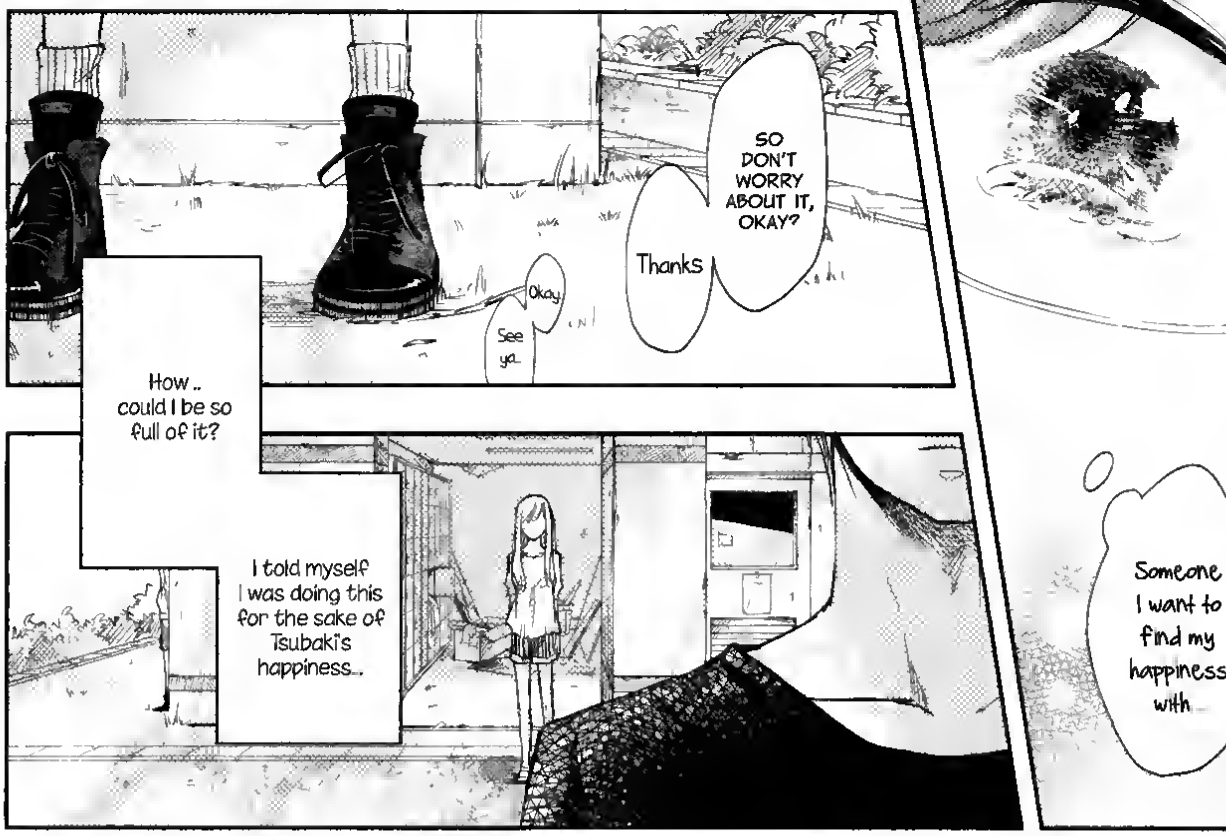


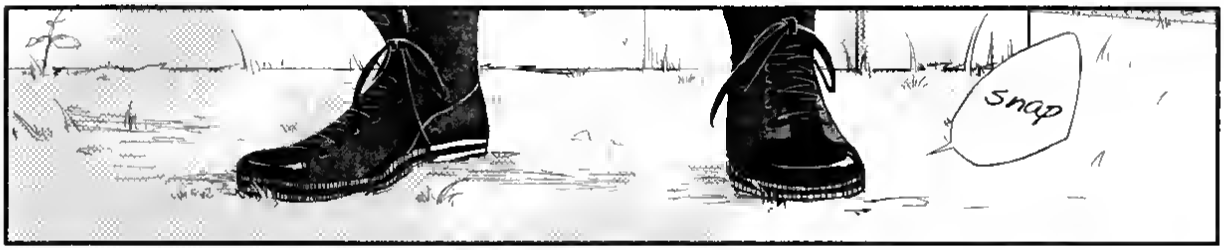
AND SHE JUST TURNED ME DOWN ANYWAY.

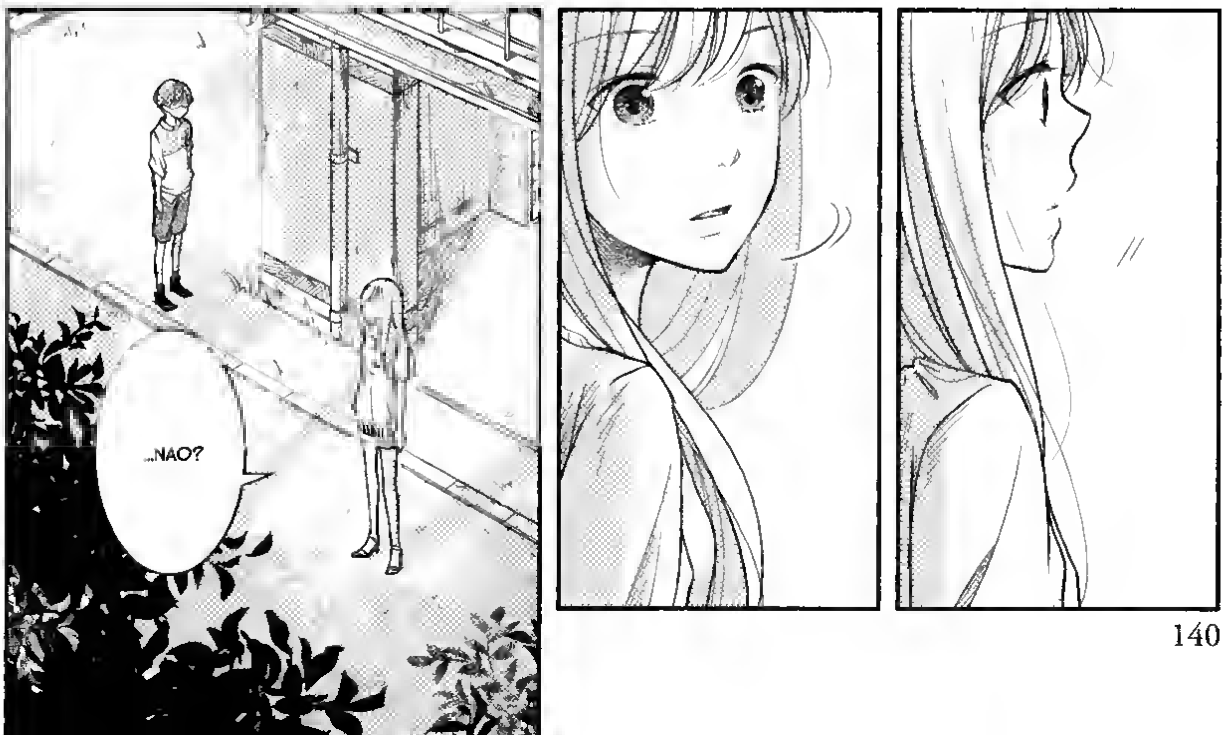

I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BLOW UP LIKE THAT.
IT'S FINE.
IT'S ALL TRUE.

HUH!? WAS THAT BECAUSE OF ME...?
NO, NO.
SHE SAID DATING A GIRL WAS TOO HARD...

I WAS READY
TO TAKE ON THE WORLD WITH HER,
BUT SHE HAS SOMEONE ELSE
SHE WANTS TO FIND HER HAPPINESS WITH.


Someone I want to find my happiness with...
SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, OKAY?
Thanks
Okay
See ya.
How.. could I be so full of it?
I told myself I was doing this for the sake of Tsubaki's happiness...


snap


...NAO?

I... I LIED. I'M NOT REALLY GOING OUT WITH SAEKI-SAN!
But the truth is, I was just scared of losing her...
clench
I WAS SCARED. SO I'VE BEEN RUNNING AWAY.
I THOUGHT THAT IF I WENT OUT WITH YOU, THINGS WOULD BE TOO HARD,
AND YOU WOULD LEAVE ME.
NAO, THAT'S—
I WAS WRONG!!

THE PERSON I WANT TO FIND HAPPINESS WITH
IS *YOU*, TSUBAKI.
I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU.
I WANT YOU TO BE WITH ME FOREVER... AS MY GIRLFRIEND.
I WANT US TO OVERCOME ALL THE OBSTACLES IN OUR PATH... TOGETHER.

...I'M FIRST IN YOUR HEART?
slip
YEAH.
YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH ME, NAO?
...YEAH.
YOU'LL BE MY GIRLFRIEND?
IF YOU'LL...
HAVE ME?

OF COURSE...!
...!?

sliiide
tmp
Mm!
...!
pant
pant

LEAN
Mm!?
.....!
gasp
TSU-TSUBAKI, WE SHOULD STOP...
WE SHOULDN'T DO THIS HERE...
WHAT? BUT THIS PLACE IS DESERTED!
TH-THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
It turns out that Tsubaki was extremely jealous
Not that I mind, but
DUM
DUM
DUM
DUM
DUM
YOU TWO SEEMED AWFULLY CLOSE, WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
Her mouth is smiling, but her eyes aren't
Incidentally...
SO, HOW DO YOU KNOW SAEKI-SAN?
WHAT DID YOU MEAN, YOU LIED TO ME?

End

The One I Love

by: Akuta Fumie